



Tallil Times

IN BRIEF

Promotion Ceremony

The Tallil Air Base Monthly Promotion Ceremony is scheduled for Tuesday at 9 a.m. at the Outdoor Stage. Everyone is invited to congratulate Tallil's newest promotees.

BX/PX Closure Cancelled

The Tallil Air Base Main Post/Base Exchange closure scheduled for Nov. 28 has been cancelled. The store is scheduled to be open with its normal operating hours.

Unit Sports Day Sunday

The 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron is hosting November's Unit Sports Day this Sunday. VMAQ2 and EMDG will try to defend their small-unit and large-unit titles from October. Events include a 5/10K run, ping-pong, push-ups and sit-ups, tug-of-war and more. To sign up, contact your unit sports representative or the Muscle Beach staff.

Off-Duty Education

The Learning Skills Center here at Tallil Air Base offers CLEP, DANTES, Excelsior, CDC, ACSC, SOS, Air War College Testing and other off-duty education opportunities. Their office is located in Bldg I-1, the brown Conex across from the Cyber Café & Library. Hours of Operation are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information, call at 459-1212.

Reflective Belts

Air Force personnel assigned to the 407th Air Expeditionary Group must wear their reflective belts when outside Tent City during hours of darkness or reduced visibility.

Tallil establishes basewide Provost Marshal program

By Senior Master Sgt. Kenneth Raub

407th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron

Sometimes driving and even walking around Tallil can be hazardous to your health. Often, this is due to the number of people who fail to display common courtesy by following a few simple rules of the road.

Some people may believe "anything goes — this is a combat zone!" Nothing is further from the truth.

Leaders of both American and coalition forces recognize the dangers we face on our roads and the need for good order and discipline.

As a result, our leaders have designated a Provost Marshal to serve as the senior "law and order" official here on Tallil.

"Enforcement of law and order is essential to any community, even in a combat zone," said Lt. Col. Charles Douglass, 407th Expeditionary Security Forces commander and Tallil Provost Marshal.

"The Provost Marshal program at Tallil will uniquely blend Army, Air Force, Marine and Coalition forces into a capability to keep us safe while in garrison," he said. "This Joint and Combined effort will allow us both safety and confidence that violators of military law will be held accountable.

"The Provost Marshal office will investigate matters such as basic traffic offenses, violations of General Orders, and even more

See MARSHAL, page 5

Let it rain ...



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Maria J. Bare

A series of thundershowers flooded Tallil Air Base this week as the traditional rainy season began throughout Southern Iraq. High winds and precipitation of almost an inch combined to redecorate tent city. For more photos, see Page 11.

By Col. Wade Johnson

407th AEG commander

I know many of you set high goals for your deployment, whether it's bettering yourself or your workcenter. However, this is the time to ensure your goals are met.

Analyze the plans you have in place, and take steps to complete them. The holiday season is already here, and the next rotation will be here sooner than you might think.

One of my goals for this rotation is to improve the readiness of the Airmen assigned to the 407th Air Expeditionary Group. To that end, we're changing our Individual Protective Equipment posture.

During IPE Alpha, Airmen will take their IPE with them to work in the morning and back home with them at the end of their duty day. People aren't required to carry their IPE for short trips away from the workcenter, like lunch at the DFAC or a quick trip to the BX — but personnel whose duty requires them to be away from a static workcenter will be required to have their IPE available to them at those locations.



In IPE Bravo, IPE must be readily available to all personnel at all locations and points of travel. Finally, in IPE Charlie your IPE will be worn at all times when outside of any structure or building.

These new postures are a step in the right direction for taking care of our people. The complete battle staff directives are posted on the local internet, on the 407th AEG home page. I expect everyone to read and be familiar with these directives, and be able to use them in the event of an emergency.

One concern I continue to have for our people is their not using safety belts while were driving here at Tallil. There is no excuse for not wearing your safety belt while operating a vehicle — either here or at home station.

Also, take the time to fasten your seat belt in the proper manner. Pushing the chest restraint down around your lap belt defeats the purpose of the device. A set belt worn improperly may not protect you in case of an accident.

Supervisors at all levels need to ensure their people are using their safety belts — and using them properly.

Stay safe, prepared and vigilant.

Tallil Talks ...

What do you think about this week's rainy weather here at Tallil?



Senior Airman
Melissa Gridley,
407th ECS:

"This year I went through four hurricanes in Florida before experiencing living in a temper tent during a thunderstorm. I think I actually prefer the hurricanes."



Airman 1st Class.
Anthony Rodney,
407th ESVS:

"I thought it was great. I liked to hear the thunderstorms — just not the work it left behind the next day."



Capt.
James Jones,
407th EMDG:

"It's good fishing weather. It makes me ready to go back to Alaska"



Staff Sgt.
Wayne King,
407th ELRS:

"It's like a lake here in our back yard behind the passenger terminal. We've even got little canyons from all the heavy equipment running through the mud."



The Tallil Times

EDITORIAL STAFF

Col. Wade Johnson
Commander, 407th AEG

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Deadline for publication is 2 p.m. Thursday before the week of publication. For more information, call 459-0002, or e-mail the staff.



Immunize yourself against 'Get-Home-Itis'

By Maj. Brett Herman

407th AEG Chief of Safety

Tallil's leadership is discussing the possibility of a new virus outbreak that may strike. It's known as "Hurryupus-getus-home-itis" or commonly known as "Get-Home-Itis."

Throughout history we have all heard of "Get-Home-Itis," but think that it will never happen to us.

Well I am here to tell you that it can, and it will — if you are not careful. We are fast approaching the holiday season which also means our rotation here is about over.

Our minds will soon begin to ponder what we will do when we get home. Whether it is spending time with family and friends

or going on a vacation, no matter what you have planned you will start to think about it more as each day passes.

It is human nature and is good to think about these things, we just need to concentrate on them when we are off duty.

When you are driving a 20 ton front-end loader, loading a weapon, working on a piece of equipment, or just driving around base — it may not be the appropriate time to think about the presents you're planning to bring home to your family.

I myself have suffered a case of "Get-Home-Itis." I was TDY to an airshow in Texas. Monday morning rolled around and all I wanted to do was climb into my A-10 and get back to home station.

The take-off, flight and landing were all seemingly uneventful until I went to get out of the aircraft.

I noticed that I had not latched my shoulder harness to the ejection seat. Needless to say, I would have had a problem if I had to eject. Luckily that didn't happen, or I would not be here writing this article.

We have even seen a few cases of "Get-Home-Itis" here at Tallil at the end of the AEF 9/10 rotation. We were lucky that no one was killed.

How will you know if you or your friends are getting a case of "Get-Home-Itis?"

Well the symptoms are very visible. They include, complacency, cutting corners, doing a quick fix, stating "don't worry, I have done this hun-

dreds of times" and many other obvious, similar phrases.

What's the cure? Follow the required technical data for each and every task, abide by the rules for every job, and use all safety devices you have available.

Our tour will not be a success if we lose one individual to "Get-Home-Itis."

If you hear someone say that the tour is basically over, remind them about "Get-Home-Itis" and remind them that it is not over until we all get back home.

As John Belushi once asked, "Was it over when the Germans bombed Pearl Harbor? Hell no!"

Nothing is over until ever single one of us is back home, healthy and ready to fight another day. Be careful and stay safe!

Reservists, Guardsmen vital part of total force team

By Chief Master Sgt. T.J. Liter

407th AEG Command Post

Our military leaders and our nation realize the active-duty Air Force can not possibly meet all its military mission taskings without the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard forces.

Currently, tens of thousands of Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Command forces are mobilized to help conduct operations at home and in Southwest Asia.

These men and women fly fighters, bombers, tankers, air lifters, Special Operations and rescue aircraft. They provide maintenance and munitions crews, security forces, medical personnel, airfield and aircraft management, command and control, emergency and personnel services and communications specialists.

Whatever specialty or skill is required, they have the resources and are trained and ready to respond.

The only way to distinguish a Reservist or Guardsmen from their active duty counterpart is often by their uniform patches. They meet the same standards, follow the same guidelines and instructions and typically blend in seamlessly.

The 407th AEG has 134 Reservists and Guardsmen who are integrated into our total force team at Tallil AB.

Many of these people have served years of active duty prior to joining the Reserves or Guard. What is often forgotten is, in some ways, they have made a greater sacrifice.

Not only have they left loved ones behind and placed themselves in harm's way, as have their active duty counterpart, but they have also suspended their regular careers and professions to serve in their military position.

This requires them to juggle between two careers at the same time. At an often unknown time, they will return to their other career, catch up on all their

unaccomplished work, all while continuing to maintain proficiency and readiness in their military positions.

These people are not just "untrained week-end warriors", as some individuals continue to perceive.

The men and women of the Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard are true professionals -- always juggling two different lives rolled into one.

They are no longer a force held in reserve solely for the possible war or contingency actions, they are at the "Tip of the Spear."

They are respected based upon their experience, accomplishments, rank and what they contribute to the "Total Force" mission.

We should appreciate them for the work they do, the hours they put in and for the competence and experience that they provide in support of the mission here and day-to-day taskings back at our home stations.

Seat belts save lives, and it's the law. Make sure you wear yours, and wear it properly!



Secretary Roche announces resignation

SECAF leaves office to free-up general officer nominations in Congress

By Tech. Sgt. David A. Jablonski

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche announced his resignation Nov. 16.

"I'm honored to have served the president, the secretary of defense and the terrific Airmen I've come to know and love in the past few years as the secretary of the Air Force," he said. "I've served with talented active, Guard, Reserve and civilian Airmen who are successfully countering new threats to our nation through their innovation and creativity. I'm proud to call myself an Airman."

Secretary Roche submitted his letter of resignation voluntarily. He left private industry to serve his country and the Air Force.

He leaves the Air Force now so that his resignation may free-up nominations of Air Force general officers that have been on hold in Congress.

During his tenure, Secretary Roche spearheaded many initiatives to improve the quality of life for Airmen and the capabilities of the Air Force, such as increasing opportunities for master's degree programs for enlisted Airmen.

"Dr. Roche has led the Air Force through one of the most remarkable periods in our nation's history," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper.

"It has been my honor to serve side-by-side with him since the terrorist at-

tacks on Sept. 11, 2001," he said. "During his tenure he has made each and every Airman his priority. His unrelenting resolve to adapt our force, to counter new and resilient threats to our nation, has guaranteed America's Air Force remains the greatest in the world."

"His compassion for the sacrifices made by our Airmen and their families is known across the Air Force," General Jumper said. "Indeed, the men and women of the Air Force family will remember him as a leader, friend and, most of all, as an Airman."

His air and space expeditionary force concept improvements linked professional military education to AEF rotation dates, reorganized deployable unit type codes and delivered base opening capability packages. His quality-of-life initiatives for Airmen reduced out-of-pocket housing expenses, yielded targeted pay raises, and resulted in large-scale base housing renovations and the one-plus-one dormitory concept.

Before his appointment, Secretary Roche held several executive positions with Northrop Grumman, including corporate vice president and president, electronic sensors and systems sector.

Before joining Northrop Grumman in 1984, he was democratic staff director of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee. Secretary Roche's previous military service spanned 23 years in the U.S. Navy where he retired as a captain in 1983.

Fellow Airmen,

Nearly four years ago, President George W. Bush asked me to serve as the Secretary of the Air Force, a great honor which I humbly accepted. My intention has been from the beginning, to serve for one term and then return to private life. That is why I have asked President Bush to accept my resignation as your Secretary, effective 20 January 2005.

Although Diane and I look forward to the next phase of our lives, it is with a heavy heart that I leave the Air Force I have come to respect and love. I could not have led a better team. Together, we have achieved great successes at an epic time in the history of our country. During this time, I have had the pleasure of working with Airmen who personify all that is good about America. And, America's Airmen have had the absolute best uniformed leader, our Chief of Staff, General John Jumper, who has become my sounding board, my partner, and my good friend.

Shortly after General Jumper and I began our partnership, our country was attacked. Since then, we have adapted the Air Force to the new nature of warfare while engaging and defeating our enemies. Together with our fellow Services, we have enabled freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq and put terrorist foes on the run. Because of the air and space power you generate, our nation remains secure.

After discussing the issue with Secretary Rumsfeld in early October, I voluntarily submitted my resignation on 16 November 2004 for three reasons.

First, it has always been my intention to serve only one term in this office. By announcing my resignation now, this allows sufficient time for a qualified successor to be identified and confirmed.

Second, my departure early next year will allow the new Secretary to take office while General Jumper remains Chief of Staff, avoiding the disruption that could occur should a new Secretary and Chief assume office at the same time.

Finally, I hope that my departure at this time will allow Congress and the Air Force to concentrate on vital matters, such as confirmation of senior leaders. I am concerned that many of our Major Commands and Combatant Commands have been left in a state of uncertainty. Airmen and other warfighters are in combat with our country's enemies — we must have stable leadership in place. You deserve that, and I will do whatever I must to ensure this occurs.

I want every member of the United States Air Force to know that I will always remain an Airman. I am proud to have served with you in the world's greatest air and space force. Although I leave this office, I will continue to do all that I can to advocate and support our Nation's Airmen, and you will always be in my heart. Diane and I wish each of you clear skies, a strong tailwind, and success in all you do. God bless America and the United States Air Force.



Marshal

Continued from Page 1

serious UCMJ violations,” Colonel Douglass said.

Many servicemembers may be familiar with the Army’s Provost Marshal program, which encompasses much more than law enforcement — it also includes other public safety functions such as fire protection. However, the PM program here will only have a law enforcement function.

The reasons behind the creation of a Provost Marshal program are tied to our values as military members.

We all must live together and have some semblance of order for our society to function properly.

Failing to do so can result in a degree of anarchy, where pedestrians, and even those in vehicles, take their lives into their own hands by the simple task of walking or driving down the road.

The Memorandum of Agreement agreed upon by the senior leaders of all of the coalition forces designates the Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron commander as the Provost Marshal for Tallil, effective Wednesday.

Beginning in December, a traffic enforcement effort will begin in earnest, with several personnel possessing extensive civilian and/or military law enforcement experience conducting 24-hour patrols. These officers, in law enforcement patrol vehicles including radar guns, are preparing for PM duty.

These troops will have the authority to issue traffic tickets to any coalition forces found to be violating our traffic rules. These tickets will be forwarded to the violator’s senior commander for action.

In addition, two full-time criminal investigators will be assigned to deal with non-traffic offenses committed on Tallil.

“This program most importantly will allow us all to complete our mission here and return home safely,” Colonel Douglass said. “I look forward to this position and ask all of you for your help in obeying the laws; and the enforcers of the law.”



Lt. Col. Douglass
Provost Marshal

Holiday Enhancement



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Maria J. Bare

Staff Sgt. Julie Snyder and Senior Airman Anthokira Izelu of the 407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron bring in a box of snacks mailed to members of the 407th Air Expeditionary Group as part of the unit’s Holiday Enhancement Program. To date, the 407th AEG’s Holiday Enhancement Committee has collected more than 40 boxes of snacks, treats and various goodies from bases and organizations around the globe, including Patrick Air Force Base, Scott AFB, Pope AFB, Sheppard AFB, the South Carolina Air National Guard and Riverside Middle School in Greer, S.C. and Boy Scout Troop #159 from Greenville, S.C.



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It’s available for FREE download each Friday at
<http://www.afnews.af.mil/internal/papers/Tallil.pdf>

Tell your friends and family about the

Tallil Times!

Having problems with your AC unit? Check for trash!

By Tech. Sgt. Robert Wilbur

407th ECES HVAC/R superintendent

During the past two months, numerous calls have been turned in to the civil engineers here at Tallil for "A/C Unit frozen," "No A/C" or "No Airflow" in a tent. Most of these problems could have easily been prevented by you — the tent occupant.

You might not know where that missing BDU shirt or bed sheet went to, but the 407th ECES Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning/Refrigeration shop knows.

Seventy-five percent of the airflow problems encountered here have been due to objects

blocking the return air to the evaporator coil in the Environmental Control Unit.

When the coil doesn't receive the proper amount of return air it will start to "freeze" and eventually will become a block of ice.

A lot of the items found inside these ECU's are light enough to be pulled into the return air ductwork by unit blower, while other items have been "strategically placed" inside the ductwork.

You can do your part in helping reduce service calls, and keeping your tent's temperature comfortable by paying close attention to what items you place near the return air ductwork opening.



Typical clogged ECU

TOP 10 ITEMS FOUND IN ECU DUCTWORK

10. Jack Daniels Whiskey Bottle
9. Spray Paint Can
8. Basketball / Ping-Pong Balls
7. DVD Movie
6. Socks
5. Styrofoam Packing Inserts
4. BDU Shirts
3. Sheets / Linen
2. Paperwork / Envelopes

And the number one thing found in most ECU ductwork.....

1. Plastic Laundry / BX bags

AROUND YOUR AIR FORCE

AF tries to resolve pay issues

In testimony before Congress on Nov. 18, the Air Force's finance director said there are issues with the service's pay system, but officials are tackling them.

Michael Montelongo, assistant secretary of the Air Force for financial management, told the Senate Armed Services Committee subcommittee on readiness and management support that Air Force officials are using an approach similar to the Army's to deal with pay issues involving reservists and guardsmen.

"(We are) bringing together the different (areas) involved in the total-pay process," Mr. Montelongo said. "We set up a (council) where we ... work on three areas: integrating the people involved in the process, making sure our processes are as integrated as possible and doing some of the near-term fixes in our personnel (and) pay systems so that we mitigate ... pay problems."

These areas include the Air Force's personnel and finance communities and the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, the Department of Defense-level agency responsible for paying every American servicemember.

In the past, pay issues have risen from disconnects between at least two of those areas — those internal to the Air Force. Total money to an Airman, beyond base pay, is based on entitlements — meaning a pay is calculated by actions taken by both the finance and personnel Airmen.

The failure of one to report in a timely manner to the other that an Airman has been deployed could result in a pay issue.

Nevertheless, Air Force officials' work to bridge the gap has alleviated some of the problems.

"While we still have some issues, we are managing those, and they are not at the alarm level," Mr. Montelongo said.

Also key is a push to accelerate implementation of the Defense Integrated Military Human-Resource System, he said.

It is intended to replace and combine older personnel and pay computer systems in the DOD and in the component services. It will eventually replace DFAS's Defense Joint Military Pay System and the Air Force's Military Personnel Data System.

AF Band opens Clinton library

Rain, and a lot of it, could not dampen the spirits of Airmen helping make the Wil-

liam J. Clinton Presidential Library opening ceremonies Nov. 18 a success.

Active-duty Airmen from the Air Force Band of Mid-America assigned to Scott Air Force Base, Ill., kicked off the official grand opening attended by an estimated 30,000 people. About 200 Arkansas National Guard Airmen and Soldiers helped the Secret Service and local law enforcement officials secure the site, drive distinguished visitors and escort them to their seats.

"It's definitely not something you get to do every day," said 1st Lt. Patti Walters, a 189th Airlift Wing escort officer, who seated dignitaries on the stage.

The previous night, the band's jazz ensemble played a four-hour set at a private party in the library for the former president and invited guests.

The library sits on a 30-acre tract along the south bank of the Arkansas River. The 20,000-square-foot museum contains artifacts and gifts, and highlights the former president's accomplishments, complete with a replica of the Oval Office.

The library contains nearly 2 million photographs and more than 75 million pages of documents.



OPERATION REACH OUT

Airmen deliver donated items to local Iraqis

By Master Sgt. Don Perrien

407th AEG Public Affairs

The convoy moves across the desert leaving a pillar of dust in its wake. The first truck approaches a small Bedouin village as the residents tend to their families and flocks. The local Iraqi residents have seen many such groups of trucks pass by in the desert, most bound for Baghdad bringing needed supplies to coalition forces in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

But today, the trucks aren't carrying materials for troops up north – they're bringing relief for families living near Tallil Air Base in southern Iraq.

Operation Reach Out is an initiative managed by the 407th Expeditionary Security

Forces Squadron and supported by the combined efforts of all Airmen deployed as part of Tallil's 407th Air Expeditionary Group. Airmen solicit and collect items from their neighbors and families back home, to donate to their new neighbors in Iraq.

"Donations come from all over and even people locally buying items," said Senior Airman Marla Bell, 407th ESFS. "People can have items mailed to our address here, or send money donations as well. When people donate money, we buy food for the program."

So far during the AEF 1/2 rotation, Operation Reach Out has made eight trips to visit the families just outside the gates of Tallil. The most recent delivery included approximately 500 pounds of rice, 16 cases of

bottled water and a two-and-a-half ton truckload of toys, blankets and other materials.

For the Airmen protecting the convoys, and those delivering the items, this program has made a difference to both the local Iraqi community – and their personal outlook about the mission here in Tallil.

"The reaction you receive from everyone is great," said Airman 1st Class Simone Hurd, 407th ESFS. "It's incredible to see the smiles on the children's faces when they look at their new pair of shoes or a new toy."

"This is one of the most rewarding experiences you could ever have," she said. "It's really an eye opener. You learn to appreciate the things that you have and not to take anything for granted."

See VISIT, page 8



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Maria J. Bare

(Top) A young Iraqi girl holds her new toy and eats a small piece of candy after being visited by Airmen as part of the Operation Reach Out program. (Above) Children rush to pick out a piece of candy from one of the Airmen participating in the program. In the past three months, Operation Reach Out has delivered food, water, clothing and toys to the local Iraqi Bedouin community.

Visit

Continued from Page 7

Almost everyone who takes part in the Operation Reach Out deliveries is greeted by children who are glad to see them, and parents who are glad for the support.

"We came to this one small family and they were as kind as could be and so grateful for us to be there," said Airman Amber Shirey, who recently returned from a delivery. "There was this tiny girl who couldn't have been more than 2-years old wearing terribly dirty clothes.

"When we handed her mother new clothes, she immediately handed me her little girl and asked me to help change her out of the old dirty clothes and into the clean ones," Airman Shirey said. "It's doing things like this that really make me feel like we are making a difference here."

Those sentiments are echoed among all the people involved with the Operation Reach Out program. According to these Airmen, the program is an example of the many good things Americans are doing while deployed to Iraq – and deserves their continued support.

"I tell people that this is a good cause, helping the Iraqi people and the United States military to become closer," said Senior Airman Kenneth Rains, 407th ESFS. "Our efforts let them know we are here to help them, and not hurt them. Operation Reach Out is just one of the many ways we give back to the Iraqi people."

Following another stop delivering goods, the convoy makes its way up the dusty roads headed back to base. The Operation Reach Out volunteers will begin gathering their items in preparation for another trip, hopefully strengthening the bonds between deployed Airmen and their Iraqi neighbors.

Tallil Airmen wishing to donate or participate in the Operation Reach Out program, should call 459-0070/0077, e-mail marla.bell@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil (donations) or

john.ragland@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil (participation). People wishing to donate items such as toiletries, clothing for children (infants to 15-years-old), powdered milk for babies, food, candy, toys for children (not complicated or electronic) and sunglasses can mail them to: Operation Reach Out, 407th AEG/ESFS, APO AE 09358.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Paul Perkins

By Master Sgt. William Casson

407th ECES Fire Department

Conducting live fire training is one way Tallil's fire dawgs stay at the top of their game. Last week firefighters deployed here participated in several live structural fire-training exercises.

"We do live fire training because as firefighters we strive to stay proficient in our career field," said Master Sgt. Philip Schumer, 407th Civil Engineer Squadron assistant chief of training.

Live fire training enables firefighters to obtain realistic experience in structural and aircraft firefighting. This type of training is required for aircraft firefighting on a semi-annual basis.

The fire chief determines requirements for live structural fire training. Since facilities for live structural fire training are not always readily available, like those for aircraft, the

frequency is much less.

"We do it whenever the opportunity presents itself," Sergeant Schumer said. "We also perform monthly exercises, to hone our skills in structural firefighting."

During each live training fire, a certified fire service instructor escorts a crew of two firefighters into the training area. As the fire develops, the instructor reviews basic fire behavior with them.

"During the training, another firefighter and I discussed the different thermal layers of heat that can be created during a fire; the natural progression of the fire; and some different extinguishing techniques," Schumer said.

Most firefighters enjoy being in live fire situations. It reinforces previous training and helps to maintain a certain level of confidence.

"I haven't done live fire training since tech school," said Airman 1st Class Jaral Stewart, a deployed firefighter from Pope

Air Force Base. "You have to experience that extreme heat once in a while."

Training of this type also requires support from other agencies. The National Fire Protection Association requires emergency medical services must be on scene at all times for live fire training. Here at Tallil, medics from the 407th EMDG continue to support the fire department and its mission.

According to Sergeant Schumer, this type of training is still dangerous, even in a controlled environment. A safety officer is assigned and backup fire crews, called rapid intervention teams, stand by in the event of a problem.

"Firefighting requires an elevated level of personal dedication, a genuine desire to help people, and a high degree of skill," said Chief Master Sgt Frank Wombwell, 407th ECES fire chief. "I am very proud of my fire dawgs and their dedication to the mission here at Tallil."

407th AEG Warrior of the Week TSgt Jennifer Carron

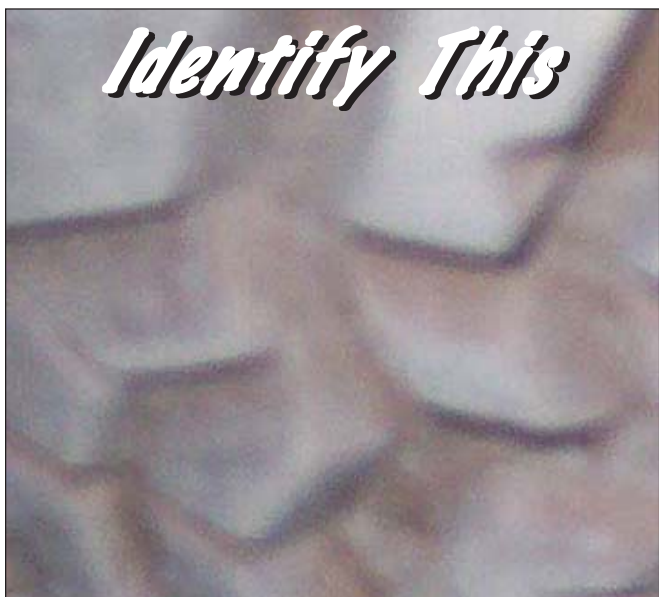
Unit: 407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron
Home unit: 916 ARW, Seymour-Johnson AFB, N.C.

Why other warriors say she's a warrior: "TSgt



Carron was tasked to be a vehicle operator at Tallil. Shortly after she arrived we realized that she had much more to offer. We moved her into the Vehicle Management area where she took over the first ever and very much needed Vehicle Care Program. She inspects the fleet daily to identify damage and discrepancies that need to be addressed keeping our fleet safe and serviceable and ensuring mission success. She also takes care of the AF Form 9's to purchase equipment, and runs the PMEL program which is the calibration of precision measuring devices. Off-duty she is active in intramural sports as well as organizing squadron participation in Sports Days."

Identify This



KNOW WHAT THIS IS? Each week, the "Tallil Times" staff takes a photo from around Tallil AB. If you can identify the object or item, shoot us an e-mail at: tallil.times@tlab.aorcentaf.af.mil. with "Identify This" in the subject block. The winner receives a prize and gets their name printed in the Tallil Times. Congratulations to Airman 1st Class Larry Deardorff for correctly identifying the photo in last week's newspaper of the mini-LED flashlight/keychain.

Wild Iraqi Safari

Grey Monitor Lizard



One of the largest lizards seen on Tallil is the grey monitor lizard. This monitor, also called the desert monitor, is a striking lizard with an attitude.

Distribution. Grey monitors have a wide distribution, greater than most other monitor lizards. The greys are found from the Sahara Desert, across the Arabian Peninsula and central Asia, and east to India.

Behavior. Some would say the grey monitor has bad behavior. As one writer stated, "They are very spirited creatures which cannot be tamed and they appear to hate humanity with a vengeance." The ones we've seen certainly put on a good show, with plenty of open-mouth hissing, pumping-up-of-the body with air and violent tail swinging (using the tail as a weapon seems feeble until it hits you). Apparently, most of the show is bluff, but it probably works quite well for the ones in Iraq that reach their maximum length of 4 feet.

As for their diet, the grey monitor devours any animal of a suitable size that it encounters. It has been recorded eating lizards, snakes, ground-nesting birds, toads, eggs and small mammals. It does eat invertebrates such as insects, spiders and scorpions, but these aren't as important to the grey monitor as they are to other lizards. Grey monitors dig burrows primarily to escape the heat or cold.

Did you know? As with other reptiles, grey monitors use the environment to control their body temperature. If its body is too cool, the grey monitor basks in the sun where it can raise its body temperature by as much as 0.5° C per minute. If it gets too warm, it moves to a cool area. Using such behaviors active grey monitors maintain a body temperature between 95-100°F, an operating range much larger than a human tolerates.

Column courtesy of John Ploch, Vector Control, KBR contractor and Lt. Col John Putnam, 407th Leishmaniasis Surveillance and Investigation Team.

And the thunder rolls ...



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jeff Andrejick



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Maria J. Bare

Storms Lash Tallil Air Base

Bands of thunderstorms swept across Tallil Air Base early this week, marking the start of the rainy season in Southern Iraq. Top, tent city is quiet during a lull between storms early Tuesday morning. Above, while less than an inch of rain was recorded, it was enough to cause minor damage and flooding in tent city. Right, the rain gave some Tallil residents the chance to get out and bust some puddles.



Photo by Senior Airman Melissa Gridley

OUT AND ABOUT



Worship services

Worship is at the 407th Air Expeditionary Group Oasis of Peace Chapel, unless otherwise noted. The chapel is open 24 hours a day for prayer and reflection. For details on worship opportunities, call 459-0006.

Sunday

8 a.m. Roman Catholic Mass
9:30 a.m. Traditional Protestant service
10 a.m. LDS service at the Army's Religious Activity Center
12:30 p.m. Air Force/Army Gospel service in the Big Top
6 p.m. Contemporary choir rehearsal
7 p.m. Contemporary worship service

Monday

6:30 p.m. Gospel service prayer time in the chapel resource trailer
6 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass
7 p.m. Experiencing God Bible Study in the Chapel Annex
7:30 p.m. Gospel choir rehearsal in the Big Top

Tuesday

7 p.m. Right of Christian Initiation of Adults in the Conference Room
7:15 p.m. Christian Leadership Bible study
8 p.m. Christian Discipleship Study. Call Marine Staff Sgt. Ross Hrynewych at 459-0761 for details.

Wednesday

5 p.m. Catholic Choir rehearsal
6 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass
7:30 p.m. Protestant Choir rehearsal
8 p.m. Purpose Driven Life Study in the chapel annex

Thursday

6:30 p.m. Catholic choir rehearsal
7 p.m. Right of Christian Initiation of Adults in the Conference Room
7 p.m. LDS study in the Army Religious Activity Center
7:45 p.m. Gospel service Bible study

Friday

11:45 a.m. Islamic prayer at the RAC, call 833-1154 for info
6 p.m. Roman Catholic Mass
7:30 p.m. Gospel choir rehearsal

Saturday

6 p.m. Vigil Mass
7 p.m. Contemporary choir rehearsal



ESVS Presents Just for fun

Tonight, Combat Bingo,
 7:30 p.m. in the Big Top;
 Alternative Music at 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, Chess at 8 p.m.;
 Saturday Nite Club Mix at the Big Top, 8 p.m.

Sunday, X-Box:
 Dead or Alive 3
 at 2 p.m.

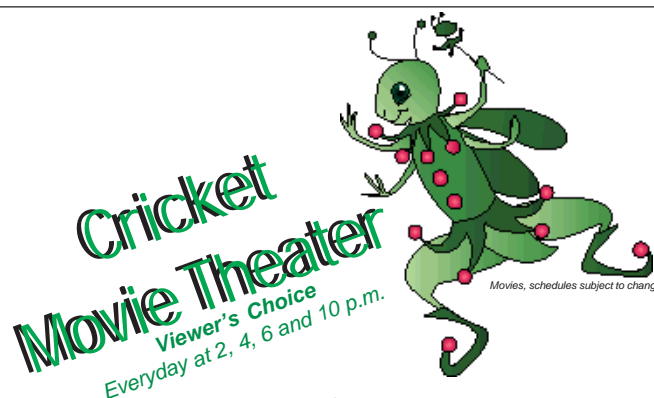
Monday,
 Foosball, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, 501 Darts, 8 p.m.

Wednesday,
 Hearts, 8 p.m.;

Spades, midnight

Thursday, .



Today

Noon, Hero
 8 p.m., Taxi
 Midnight, Taxi

Saturday

Noon, Exorcist: The Beginning
 8 p.m., I Heart Huckabees
 Midnight, I Heart Huckabees

Sunday

Noon, Catwoman
 8 p.m., Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow
 Midnight, Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow

Monday

Noon, King Arthur
 8 p.m., Sleepover
 Midnight, Sleepover

Tuesday

Noon, Hero
 8 p.m., Taxi
 Midnight, Taxi

Wednesday

Noon, Johnson Family Vacation
 8 p.m., Exorcist: The Beginning
 Midnight, Exorcist: The Beginning

Thursday

Noon, I Heart Huckabees
 8 p.m., Catwoman
 Midnight, Catwoman

Dec. 3rd

Noon, Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow
 8 p.m., King Arthur
 Midnight, King Arthur



Tallil's Strongmen



The winners of Sunday's Strongman contest held at Muscle Beach pose with their prizes. Alfredo Sy took the lightweight title with a lift of 855 pounds in three disciplines, Darrell Macklin was the best in the middleweight division after lifting 1,020 pounds, and Joshua Dawson earned his shirt in the heavyweight division with a total lift of 1,315 pounds.

Intramural dodgeball season underway

By Master Sgt. Don Perrien

407th AEG Public Affairs

Never forget the five "D's" of dodgeball. Dodge, duck, dip, dive and ... dodge. But just in case you need a refresher course, the lines are drawn, the music is loud, and the balls are flying as the intramural dodgeball season gets underway here at Tallil Air Base's Big Top.

Fourteen teams are competing for the top spot in the league, playing two nights a week for seeding in a season-ending playoff scheduled to be held during the last week in December.

"We're the first base in Iraq to hold an intramural dodgeball league," said Maj. Allen Fry, 407th Expeditionary Services Squadron commander. "The other units have had tournaments like we have had here, but only we have a league."

Teams of eight players play a best three-out-of-five match using specially approved dodgeballs. The matches were lengthened from a best two-out-of-three format to increase play time for participants.

"We had some matches take just a couple of minutes, we want people to get out there and be able to break a sweat," Major Fry said.

Muscle Beach Events

Today, Karate, Kenpo/Aikido, 10:15 p.m.

Saturday, Dead lift contest, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Unit Sports Day

Monday, Intramural Dodgeball, 5 p.m.; Karate, Kenpo/Aikido, 10:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Intramural Dodgeball, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Karate, Kenpo/Aikido, 10.15 p.m.

Thursday, Bench Press Contest, 6 p.m.



Personal Christmas Videotape Greetings

Up to 15 minutes of holiday greetings for your family

Read a story to your kids!

We'll provide an CD-R copy and packaging for shipping (Free Shipping)

Call or e-mail TSgt Jermyn @ 459-1212 to schedule an appointment